Conservation and Preservation of Monuments and Special Architectural or Historic Interest in Nigeria: Towards Promotion of Sustainable Cultural Tourism

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Abstract

Some of the renowned world tourism countries have special peculiarities in character in terms of their nature reserves and built environments; that made them stand out for their attractions and visits. These qualities range from conservation and preservation of nature reserves, built environments- epoch architectural supports over the years; historical heritage; political; religious; socio-economic; cultural; and high technology that enhance culture. The virtues of multi-ethnic groups and multi-cultural nature gave Nigeria a rich cultural heritage, and she is blessed with natural wonders, unique wildlife, and a very favorable climate. More often than not less attention and importance are placed over the nature reserves and built environments to the detriment of tourism in lieu of other sectors. Summarily the country lacks the culture of conservation and preservation of her abundant resources to promote cultural tourism. Case study strategy was applied in the research – tours with reports of personal experiences, documentaries and analyses of sites visited in Europe and Nigeria were highlighted with references to their attributes in terms of structures and features that made up the sites as relate to culture and attraction. The task in keeping rural, city landscapes and nature reserves alive stands out as the secret of communication link from the past to present and the future; which tourism developed nations reap as benefits for tourist attraction.

Keywords: Conservation; Preservation; Nature Reserve; Monuments; and Cultural Tourism.
1 INTRODUCTION

What memory is to the mind is what history is to a nation. Some of the renowned world tourism countries have special peculiarities in character in terms of their nature reserves and built environments; that made them stand out for their attractions and visits. These qualities range from conservation and preservation of nature reserves, built environments (epoch architectural supports over the years), historical heritage, political, religious, socio-economic, cultural, and to high technology.

Nigerian provisional census totals of 2006 were 140,003, 542 million people[1]. But currently, it is estimated to about 148 million people; the most populated black nation in the world. Its 370 multi-ethnic groups and multi-cultural gave it a rich cultural heritage; blessed with natural wonders, unique wildlife with a very favorable climate. The story of Nigeria’s tourism industry is one of unfulfilled potential. Theoretically, the country is tailor-made for tourism. More often than not less attention and importance are placed over the nature reserves and built environments to the detriment of tourism in lieu of other sectors. Yet very little effort has been undertaken at the national level to develop tourism. Nigeria did not establish an official tourist board until 1976 and only in the 1990s did it formulate a national tourism policy. Most foreign visitors come to Nigeria for businesses or family visits. The text focused and touched some aspects of tourism concerning culture with special architectural or historic interests – nature reserves, monuments and built environments. Those are some of the dynamics involved in people visiting places outside their normal residences for sightseeing, relaxation and various other interests and activities that cater for the phenomenon referred to as tourism.

Personal experiences and documentaries of tourism sites in Europe, particularly the Ancient Rome and Romanian sea resorts, and many local sites in Nigeria were highlighted with illustrations, showcasing some of their important attributes of tourism sites - structures and features that made up special architectural or historic interests. A study of tourism development in Malaysia, one of the tourism developing nations of the world was conducted, and using some of the deductions, and their strategies as theoretical framework for tourism development in Nigeria.

2 TOURISM OVERVIEWS

2.1 Conservation

Conservation in this context involves the need for protection and retaining natural environments - nature reserves, cultural heritage sites, monuments and built environments of special architectural or historic interest. It involves listing of buildings and nature reserves. Listed buildings are buildings officially defined as being of special architectural or historic interest. Conservation areas are areas of ‘special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which is desirable to preserve or enhance[2]. Conservation is usually associated with both the natural resources and the built environment. Although both aspects of conservation differed in terms of their approach and methodology, they nonetheless share the same objective: to ensure that the maximum life cycles of both the natural resources and built environment are maintained. Indeed, conservation is a continuous process in lieu of the interests of the future generations.

2.2 Preservation

Oxford English Dictionary defines “preservation “ as the art of keeping safe”, keeping alive”, “maintaining” and “retaining”. This involves protecting and enhancement of the character of built environment which is essential in preserving its nature. Current small scale unauthorized changes of local and district landscapes, buildings and settlements often occur in response to shifting economic, style and technological values of people. The trend if not controlled, over the time would lead to loss of character to the affected areas.[3]

Historic buildings help define the character of our communities by providing a tangible link with the past. Today historic district around the country are experiencing unprecedented revitalization as cities use their cultural monuments as anchors for redevelopment.[4] Then, the need to retain the identity and character of a place and its environs necessitates the evocation of restoration as a tool to keeping them alive.

2.3 Restoration

Building restoration with allied structures is the art that stimulates improvements to existing historical significant structures in promoting tourism, enhancing the physical appearance and economic vitality of the area, and to promote joint/private investment to compliment historical revitalization effort.

Restoration in this text involves restitution of the strength with its identity or character of the building or structure had before the damage occurred. This type of action must be undertaken when there is evidence that the structural damage can be attributed to exceptional phenomena that are not likely to happen again; and that the original form and strength provided adequate level of safety.

2.4 Nature Reserves and Structures with Special Architectural Interests

These refer to those natural features as well as man-made structures of special architectural or historic interest which are seated, sited, and everywhere found in any particular area or district. It could include features such as habitats, water bodies of various forms and nature: mountains, hills, rocks, forests, water bodies (lakes, rivers, oceans, waterfalls, etc.), natural orders, structures as buildings, sculptures; bridges and lots. Some of those mentioned objects may be classified as monuments.
2.5 Monuments

Monuments relates to the remains of the past, which arguably should be maintained for national pride and be cherished by future generations. The measure could be achieved through proper conservation strategies involving protection and preservation of the components and elements of historic heritage from being demolished or restored without proper and systematic planning, control and management measures. Examples of the elements of historic heritage are buildings of significant architectural values, historical sites and the uniqueness of the local cultures. Such elements are commonly found in many heritage cities and villages. Apart from being national treasures, these heritage elements should be promoted as tourism products.

Public buildings, an element of built environment contribute greatly in character of the area when they are in harmony with the ambient environment. The utmost purpose of a building is to serve a function, in addition to function; buildings are designed to create impressions expressed through forms. Every architectural object has communication power. Through symbolism, buildings express their functions to the onlooker. Ideally, the sensory reach experience one enjoys in natural environment should be experienced in built environment; possessing the identity of the community and sometime, begin to define the dominant character of the area which are evident in many of the famous world tourism destinations. Christopher Wren wrote: “architecture has its political use; public buildings being ornament of a country; it establishes a nation, draws people and commerce, make the people to like their country”.

According to Rossi, monuments serve to transmit ideas within the urban context. The persistence of a city is revealed through monuments, which serve as physical signs of the past. Yet it must be clear. Rossi also advocates that the dynamic process of the city tends to be more of an evolution rather than preservation. According to the Word Web, these refer to important sites that are marked and preserved as public property. It can also mean structures erected to commemorate persons or events.

Ruins often impose untold difficulties of imagining what it was like before its buildings were destroyed; if only they are not completely cleared from the site. The ruins are dead things; they speak their language which is romantic enough, but does not evoke a picture of the monument in their original life and splendor. A monument foretells what it is, and at the same time, what it was; further:

- monuments tell to what historical period they belonged. Monuments give us a sense of participation in the stream of history, far more vividly than any object in a museum;
- restoration owes preservation and conservation the desire that we have not lost all the achievements of the past;
- to interrupt the thread of history would be to break the continuity of life; man should continue to live and build on this ancient fabric, which is a source of the greatest spiritual achievement for me.⁴

In other words, monuments are important, significant and historic, and structural edifices conserved for the general public.

2.6 Culture

Culture is an intrinsic part of nature which may be in form of abstraction or physical - representing the ways of life of people, or symbolic as it relates to objects. In this context, it refers and relates to components and elements of tourism.

Culture in other word is defined broadly as a set of practices, based on forms of knowledge, which encapsulate common values and act as general guiding principles. It is through these forms of knowledge that distinctions are created and maintained, so that, for example, one culture is marked off as different from another.⁶ The differences create attractions to one another.

2.7 Cultural tourism

Culture in tourism is an important issue. The relationship between tourism and culture can take many forms and the outcome can be viewed as negative and positive when meeting of hosts and visitors occurs and possibly leads to the transformation of the hosts’ culture. The destruction of local culture as a result of tourism is well documented.⁵ Cultural tourism is considered by researchers as a lopsided view of the impact of tourism. However, studies have shown that tourism has led to the strengthening of local culture.⁷

Cultural tourism as the movements of persons for essentially cultural motivations such as study tours, performing arts and cultural tours; travel to festivals and other related events.⁸ Essentially, cultural tourism is based on the mosaic of places, traditions, art forms, celebrations and experiences that portray ones nation and its people.⁹

It is observed that there are array of tourist activities that come under the heading of cultural tourism. However, there is a distinct demarcation of cultural tourism and hence a distinct profile of cultural tourists. The cultural tourists are those who go about their leisure in a more serious frame of mind. To be a cultural tourist, is to go beyond idle leisure and to return enriched with knowledge of other places and other people even if this involves ‘gazing’ at or collecting in some way, the commodified essences of otherness.⁹¹⁰

Studies of western culture described the cultural tourists as ‘a high socio-economic status, high level of educational attainment, adequate leisure time, and often having occupations related to the culture industries’.⁹¹⁰ It must be borne in mind that culture is not static but one that is dynamic and evolving. There is globalization of culture and also the mobilization of culture for internal and external purposes. Those are some of the processes that transform culture.⁹¹⁰
Heritage tourism can be classified as a subclass of cultural tourism. Both cultural and heritage tourism become a growing segment of the tourism marketplace. Cultural tourists appear to be motivated for different reasons than do traditional tourists. Some tourism destinations see cultural tourism as a promotion for tourism products, and this has been lamented. Heritage tourism is “about the cultural traditions, places and values that ... groups throughout the world are proud to conserve”.\(^{[11]}\)\(^{[12]}\)\(^{[13]}\) Observations from many scholars indicate that cultural traditions such as family patterns, religious practices, folklore traditions, and social customs attract individuals interested in heritage as do monuments, museums, battlefields, historic structures, and landmarks.\(^{[14]}\)^{[15]}\(^{[16]}\)\(^{[17]}\)

### 2.8 Tourism Development in Malaysia

Foreign influences, particularly the remains of colonialism are much present in many aspects of the Malaysian life including town planning, law, education, military, culture and architecture. Interestingly, the distinctive colonial architectural styles in buildings and monuments have played a major role in the creation of urban form and heritage cities throughout Malaysia. The cities of Georgetown, Ipoh, Malacca, Taiping, Kuala Lumpur and Kuching are fine examples of monumental and heritage cities boasting of rich colonial architecture.

Coupled with the growth in tourism, it is a booming interest in the ‘new tourism’. Cultural tourism has emerged as a potential form of alternative tourism among both international tourists as well as Malaysian domestic travelers. Cultural tourism in Malaysia attracted great publicities with the increase in the number of incoming tourists annually. Malaysia has marvelous cultural tourism resources that are readily available to be explored such as the existence of multi-cultural, historical buildings, colorful lifestyles and friendly atmosphere.

‘Street culture’ depicts the scenes of everyday life that can be readily observed by tourists in their natural setting, as opposed to ‘staged culture’ which refers to contrived staged presentations; which are specifically prepared for the tourist. In terms of government allocations of funds for tourism, and of coverage by the promotional media, there seems to be a belief that staged culture contributes more to tourism than street culture.\(^{[14]}\) In Malaysia, heritage and culture have also been identified as new niche products to be developed extensively in tourism development. Cultural vibrancy is clearly manifested in the ongoing and successful “Malaysia: Truly Asia” promotional drive by the country’s promotion arm, Tourism Malaysia. In this promotion, Malaysia boasts to host a wide variety of Asian ethnic groups that making it into a little Asia. Malaysia also has distinctive multicultural architectural heritage with strong Islamic, Chinese and Western influences; all of which have been portrayed in the heritage buildings.\(^{[6]}\)

### 2.9 The Nigeria Urban Regional Planning Laws

The Federal Military Government of Nigerian promulgated Decree No. 88, 1992 and Decree No. 18, 1999 (amendment); establishing The Nigerian Urban and Regional Planning Laws. The sections as applied to this are briefly mentioned.

#### 2.9.1 Execution

Under Execution, Section 5, the Decrees empowered the three arms of the governments as follow: the Federal, State, and Local certain bodies to establish and maintain respectively:

(a) a National Urban and Regional Planning Commission (hereafter in this Decree referred to as “the Commission”);

(b) a State Urban and Regional Planning Board (hereafter) in each of the State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; and

(c) a Local Planning Authority hereafter in this Decree referred to as “the Authority”) in each of the Local Government Area and Area Councils of the Federation.

Each of the arms of the Government is mandated to establish her Development Control Department to control and oversee their respective functions within their respective areas of jurisdiction. Amongst their functions as they concern this text are:

(i) Compiling a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, and others.

(ii) Conditions for including a building in the Development Control Department’s list.

(iii) Control Department to consult persons with special knowledge of or interest in a Building of architectural or historic interest;

(iv) Deposit of list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest with appropriate State or Local Government;

(v) Publish in the Gazette a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest within its jurisdiction;

(vi) A listed building may be demolished, altered or extended if the Control Department gives a written consent for the execution of the works on the listed building; and so on.\(^{[18]}\)
2.10 Cityscape and Architecture in Nigeria

Most of the early traditional buildings and structures of special architectural or historic interests in Nigeria were neither conserved nor protected. With belated consciousness and interest, recently the beautiful landscapes are adorned with edifices epitomized by modern architecture/structures. Some, reflecting cultural integration and historic interests, and while others contemporary in nature. Within the country, there are many innumerable monuments in rural and urban settings which serve as physical signs of the past, evolved through dynamic processes, reflecting socio-economic and cultural life of the people- past, present, and the future. Some are structures erected to commemorate persons or events.

Tourism is relatively a budding enterprise in Nigeria. In spite of Nigeria’s numeral potentials, it is moving in a slow pace; monuments and historic structures are of great essence complementing nature reserves.

The Federal Government of Nigeria in its determined efforts to develop and promote tourism into an economically viable industry had in 1991 evolved a tourism policy. The main thrust of the policy is to make Nigeria a prominent tourism destination in Africa, generate foreign exchange, encourage even development, promote tourism-based rural enterprises, generate employment, accelerate rural-urban integration and foster socio-cultural unity among the various regions of the country through the promotion of domestic and international tourism. It also aims at encouraging active private sector participation in tourism development.

Nigeria is a country greatly endowed with natural resources. It is blessed with warm sundry climate, over 800 kilometers of fascinating beaches and evergreen vegetation in the south, while in the north, alluring landforms overshadows savannah grasslands. Added to these are the interesting natural features in form of waterfalls, springs, hills, some mountainous areas with temperate-like climate and a range of special and common species of tropical wildlife. These, coupled with wide market opportunities, diverse socio-cultural heritage that gives the nation its uniqueness and the hospitality of about 148 million people.

The aforementioned are measures for conserving and preserving natural and built environments. From the literature above it shows that components and elements of tourism are inseparable, they are complimentary to each other- be it in abstraction or in physical form.

3 TOURS TO DESTINATIONS AND DOCUMENTARIES

Personal experiences, documentaries and cursory overviews and illustrations of some sites I visited in Europe and Nigeria were highlighted with references to their attributes in terms of structures and features that made up the sites as relate to culture.

3.1 Tourism Sites in Ancient Rome

A visit to Ancient Rome portrays the fact that the site is adorned with classical monumental buildings, structures and monuments, serving as physical signs of the past transiting ideas within the urban context; which its persistence is revealed through conservation and preservation. Notably amongst them are: The Colosseum, The Basilica of St. Peter, Valley of Forum (was the heart of Republican city), Palaces of Caesars, Circus Maximus, Island in the Tiber, Mausoleum of Hadrian, Pantheon (masterpiece of architectural skill), Via Appia (where Christ visited Peter, Tomb of Caecilia Metella, and other sites. The sites possess fascinating, splendid and unforgettable aura of biblical years and haunts of romantic atmosphere.

3.1.1 The Colosseum

Colosseum, regarded as the accepted “symbol of Rome and eternal destiny has a great Pizza around the Amphitheatre. Built in the middle of the broad valley between the Palatine, the Esquiline and the Caelian hills, the largest of the monuments of ancient Rome became quickly and inevitably the 'Colossus' and was therefore known as Colosseum.

The building was undertaken by the emperor Vespasian, of the Flavian family between A.D. 70 and 75, and was inaugurated by his son Titus in 80 A.D. with a series of shows that lasted for 100 days. It stood on the site where Nero had excavated a lake in the garden of his Golden House. The undertaken aroused a tremendous enthusiasm among the citizens, who regarded the construction of 45 – 50,000 seats as restitution of public ground which had been usurped for private purposes by the tyrant Nero.

There were numerous entrances, broad corridors, stairways, carefully planned passages of access and six tiers of seats so that spectators could go to the shows in comfort. The shows comprise essentially the gladiatorial combats and wild beast hunts. An elaborate complex of passages and rooms underneath the arena; and provided store rooms for stage properties and cages for the animals which could be brought up to the arena, and produced at the appropriate moment by an indigenous device of trapdoors and pulleys.

An enormous awning drawn by ropes that were tied to beams fixed in the upper external cornice of the amphitheatre and was maneuvered by special service corps of sailors, provided shade for the spectators; and scents were spread into the auditorium to mask the smell of blood and stench of rubbish.
Violent earthquakes, the worst of them in the 13th and 14th centuries, shook down a considerable part of the outer arcade and for many years the great heap of fallen materials provided a quarry for the builder of palaces and churches of the Renaissance. [4]

3.1.2 The Basilica of St. Peter

St. Peter, Centre of Christian Rome, was founded in the footsteps of St. Peter on the 23rd of December in the holy year of 1950, pope Pius XII announced to the world that the excavations carried out beneath the crypt under the High Alter of the Vatican Basilica had rediscovered the tomb of St. Peter. Staccioli citing Eusebius; the Liber pontificalis declares that the place the martyrdom was beside that of the burial, and this is stated for the first time in the passage of Eusebius’ Ecclesiastical History who relates the words of the Roman priest Gaius in controversy with the heretic Proclus between the years 198 and 217: “whether you go to the Vatican or whether you go along the Ostia road you will find there the "trophies" of those who founded this Church" (where Greek word "trophy" can only be interpreted as "tomb"). Over that burial-place, according to the wishes of Constantine, there arose, two and a half centuries after the apostle’s death, the first basilica of St. Peter, which the Renaissance later replaced by the one we see today. [4]

The Basilica of St. Peter and environs, stand as the most visited monument in the world, by thousands of tourist daily and millions yearly, with the backing of long Christian religious history in addition to Classical and Renaissance epochal supports. This fact is evident by the visits of the author to different parts of the Ancient Rome; with special preferences to Colosseum and Vatican in 1982 as a tourist, figures 1(a &b) and 2(a &b).

3.2 Tourism in Romania

Tourism in Romania is basically characterized and supported by Black Sea resorts; stretching from the coastline of Danube in the north down to the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast covering a distance of about 275 km. Romanian resorts have unique features of fine, soft sand and safe gentle sloppy beaches with virtually absence of current and tide.

Romanian tourism destinations are characterized by mainly many beach resorts of international standard with beehives of recreational and relaxation activities; attracting a large number of domestic as well as international tourists during summer. It has become customary that Romanian families periodically make budgets for yearly visits to desired destinations; endowed with colossal investments in tourist infrastructure; and the urge for self-improvement. The urge and the growth of domestic tourism in the country with complimentary international tourist attractions enable promotion and boosting of the tourism industry. Those factors rob off in increase in number of visits and resultant high earnings of the industry in the national economy.
Visits to the destinations reveal a great number of populous tourist resorts amongst which, Mamaia is situated north of the coastal largest seaport of Constanta city; connected to the main European capitals through chartered flights during summer seasons.

Notably among other resorts are Neptune, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter Olimp, Mangalia and Eforie Nord. In addition to the beach resorts, the lakes at Techirghiol and Agigea have a special curative value, and resulted in the development of several spa resorts and facilities.

Besides the popular resorts there are some cheaper and affordable ones along the coastline for economy class and students at Costinesti, traditionally and popularly for youths and students; while Vama Veche is a fishing village well known for its hippie atmosphere in the extreme south bordering Bulgaria, figures 3 (a, b & c).

The nature and high investment in infrastructural development made the country 'must visit tourist destination'.
bows and arrows as effective tools for combats. In this regard, the gate was named Kofar Kibo ‘Libya’ (arrow); it also doubled as hatchery and weapon storage unit.

K0far Galadima– Galadimas are generally King Makers and highly respected individuals in any Northern Emirate in Nigeria. Report reached the then emir that invaders attempted to take over the part of the city where the Galadima was settled; and they were conquered and repelled by his subjects - servants and warriors; and without the involvement of the city warriors. Because of that feat, the Emir named the gate Galadima, hence the house of the Galadimma was located around that area.

Kofar Banzauzu (BAI)

The gate is the least famous amongst the eight gates due to ill-fated events associated/attributed to the gate. All Emirs who rode (exited) through the gate never came back. Emirs defeated in war/conquests rode out of the town through the gate. Evidence abound that when Sanki Makau left through the gate when he was dethroned during the jihad of Shehu Musa, and never came back. Kauri, Lere, Kagarko, Kajuru were all towns created by Makau when he was removed; he created those town before he finally settled at Abuja, His descent are still found in Zaria, and are named the descendants of Maje Abuja – they hold the title of 'Wakilin Mai Watsa Labarai and Mandani Zazzau'.

Kofar Kuyambana– The gate got its elevated status from historical events which took place between the British colonialist and the Emir during the British invasion of the city. Kofar Kuyambana was the place where both parties met, and reached a consensus that the Emir should willingly comply without putting a fight since his counterpart, Kastina Emirate had accepted the British. And before reaching consensus both parties displayed their respective assorted weapons. Weapons in display were bows and arrows, swords, spears and others by then Zaria warriors. While the British displayed sophisticated weapons such as guns and canons. The title Kuyambana, named after a warrior, is still in existence as he is always seen on the right hand side of the emir - from where the gate derived its name [21]

3.3.2Kano

Kano city has a rich historical and Islamic influence that span from ancient to modern history. It has a remarkable monument known as Gidan Makama Museum or Kano Museum. It was built in the 15th century as temporary palace of Kano before the current one. The house was constructed with mud and colourful embellishments that characterized Hausa/Fulani style of paintings, figure 5 below

Figure 4: City Wall Zaria a gate
Figure 5: Kano Museum
Source: britishmuzeum.org Source: www.,kanonline.com

3.3.3 Lagos

Lagos, a mega commercial city and former capital of Nigeria, and now the capital of Lagos State nicknamed “Centre of Excellence” is adorned with nature reserves and ultra-modern architectural iconic buildings and urban structures constituting landmarks and tourism attractions.

3.3.3.1 National Arts Theatre, Lagos-

The Theatre was constructed in 1976 during the military regime under General Olusegun Obasanjo, which hosted the Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) in 1977. It is a multi-purpose monument for the preservation, presentation and promotion of Nigerian arts and culture; an iconic architectural edifice; with the exterior façade shaped in form of military hat, making it to stand out as a landmark edifice in Lagos, figure 5 below. The building is tagged “the culture house” which represents one of the most identifiable national symbols about Nigeria’s art and culture at home and abroad; and primary centre for performing arts. The building has 5000 capacity seats in the Main Hall, installed with collapsible stage, and two 700- 800 capacity cinema halls equipped with modern facilities for translation of more than 8 languages.
3.3.3.2 The Third Mainland Bridge Lagos

It is the longest of the three bridges, Eko and Carter; and any other bridge in Nigeria. It connects Lagos Island to the mainland; and is also the longest in Africa. It measures about 11.8 km., starting from Oworonshoki, linking Apapa - Oshodi express way and Ibadan express way, and ends at Adeniji Adele Interchange at Lagos Island. In addition, there is a link midway through the bridge that leads to Macaulay Way, Yaba. The bridge was built by Julius Berger Nigeria PLC, and was commissioned by General Ibrahim Babangida in 1990, figures 6 (a & b).

3.3.4 Winners Chapel Ota

Winners Chapel Ota is the international headquarters of Winners Chapel, called Faith Tabernacle, and a colossal architectural edifice, located in Ogun State. It is in neighbourhood with Lagos suburbs. It covers about 28.3 hectares of land, and massive church complexes called Canaaland. The building construction was started on August 1998 and completed on September 19, 1999 with 97,800 attendances during the dedication. Faith Tabernacle, as from 1999-2008 was assumed by many as the largest church building in the world. It has the capacity of 50,400 seats inside, and an outside overflow capacity of 250,000, with four services every Sunday. [19] figure 7(a & b) below.

3.3.5 Abuja

Abuja, the administrative capital Nigeria is adorned with fascinating natural reserves – characterized by hilly rocky terrain and complementary architectural splendor; possess the aura of romance; and tourist attraction.

3.3.5.1 National Assembly Building Abuja

A national icon and symbol of unity is a bicameral legislative building, accommodating 109 senate members and 360 member House of Representatives. It is an architectural edifice and a pride of the nation for its monumentality, figure 8 below.
3.3.5.2 National Stadium Abuja

It is located at Nigerian capital Abuja; the construction of the stadium by the federal government got approval in July 2000 for the purpose of hosting the 8th All African Games in December 2003. The ultra-modern National Stadium complex and Games Village have the capacity of 60,491 seats adorned with magnificent architectural splendor- regarded by many as the greatest architectural edifice in Abuja, and in Nigeria , figures9(a& b) above.

3.3.5.3 Abuja National Mosque

It was built in 1984, and is open to the non- Muslim public except during congregational prayers. It is seen as one of the outstanding mosques in Africa, and adorned with four towers and impressive golden dome; forming architectural masterpiece and religious edifice; meant to accommodate any would be visitor or tourist irrespective of religion figures 10 (a & b).

![Image of Abuja National Mosque](a)

![Image of Abuja National Mosque](b)

Figure10: (a &b) Abuja National Mosque (Ext. & Int.)

Source:Afitafu Lanre 2014

3.3.6 Cross River State (Calabar)

Calabar the Capital of Cross River State is a quiet peaceful and clean city with haunts of romantic atmosphere. The name Calabar was derived either from the Portuguese words Cala Barra (the calm bath) or Hebrew words Chalab Beth (a land flowing with milk).

Visits to the city and its environs reveal and reflect a great deal of cross-cultural fertilization by European merchants; particularly the Portuguese and the British. Also British colonization and missionary influences impacted much on their lives. It is a city rich in history starting from the Trans- Atlantic trade in the 17th and 18th century; had an international sea port since the 16th century from where slaves were transported to the Caribbean Islands, and later, the palm oil trade. Calabar, is located in the Bight of Biafra, a region from where approximately 25-30% of Africans were transported to the 'new world’ as slaves. This percentage represents the largest single point of exit.

3.3.6.1The Slave Anchor

The Slave Anchor is a remarkable monument in commemoration of the arrivals and berthing of European slave ships at the Calabar Port, carrying along some finished products in exchange for slaves. After abolition of slave trade, trades such as palm oil and other agricultural products took precedence. The anchor, being conserved and preserved at the Marina Museum Resort Calabar, is a major tourist attraction - reflecting the memories of yesteryears, as in figure 11; and Marine Harbour from where the trades were facilitated, figure 12 below.

![Image of Slave Anchor](a)

![Image of Marine Harbour](b)

Figure 11: Slave Anchor, author in the photoFigure12: MarineHarbour, author in the photo

Source: Authors field trip 2011Source: Authors field trip 2011
3.3.6.2 Slave Trade Museum (Calabar)

It is located in the marina resort of the old river side area in Duke town, figure 13. The museum showcases relics of the slave trade. It is believed that 25-30 percent of Africans transported to the new world as slaves left from Calabar region. It reflects the memory and character of organization of slave trade. The museum displays some photos and sculptures that tell stories of the slave trade era. The walls around the museum are engraved, showing some slaves being shipped out of the country; and portraying the ordeal and trauma experiences of slaves from captive, acquisition and transportation to slaves’ store enclosure, and to their final shipment destinations abroad. Figure 14 illustrates how they were stacked in plan inside ships like ‘sardine tin fish’, and figure 15 shows the ship. The documentary pictures and engraved images portrayed the dehumanized nature of the ill-fated business which captures the sympathies of visitors, making the location the most visited.

3.3.6.3 National Museum Calabar

Built in 1884 on top of Consular hill, the building is a prefabricated structure of Scandinavian red-pine wood shipped in knockdown parts from Britain to Old Calabar. This building was the seat of the British colonial administration for the Southern Protectorate of Nigeria. It was initially known as “The Government House”. This imposing structure remains one of the best examples of the early colonial architecture of that time. The building was declared a national monument (No. 20) in August 1959 and was renovated and converted into a museum of Old Calabar history in August 1986 by the National Commission for Museum and Monuments, figure 16 below.

3.3.6.4 Mary Slessor

She was an epitome of humanity and humility, born to serve and salvage life. Mary Slessor was born in December 2, 1848 in Aberdeen Scotland. She started her extensive, unique and indefatigable live-saving and historic missionary activities in the old Calabar Province in 1876 and served for almost half a century. Her memory is cherished in the city for having led the movement to abolish the killing of twins. The mothers of twins were sometimes ostracized and banished to the evil forest where they were left to die. Consequently, as a sign of honour and respect many institutions were named after her to immortalize her; and her residence was preserved. Her grave was glorified with a monumental tomb that keeps her memory alive, as seen with the cross on the left of the image in figure 17.

Figure 13: Slave Museum Figure 14: View of Slaves’ Arrangement in Plan, Figure 15: Slaves in a Ship

Source: Author’s tours, 2011. Source: National Commission for Museums and Monuments

Figure 16: (a) National Museum Calabar Figure 17: Mary Slessor’s Tomb Figure 18: Millennium Park, Source: Author’s tours 2011
There are other remarkable monuments and edifices of history, culture and events which adorn the city with beauty and splendor.

3.3.6.5 The Millennium Park

It is one of the spots for relaxation in the city. It is decorated with ornamental plants and with engraved names of heroes of the State –past and present, figure 18.

3.3.6.6 The Monolith

It is a remake of Ikom arts at a roundabout in Calabar. They are single isolated mass of stones of varying sizes of 30-60cm, and weight of between 50kg to 800kg, figure 19 (a). They have smooth surfaces, an indication that they may have been collected from riverbeds. Etched unto the smooth surfaces are delicate lines that form the intricate patterns usually depicts human faces with beads and tribal marks. Over the years, the historical monuments have been a major tourist attraction with thousands of visitors yearly.

3.3.6.7 The Cenotaph

It was built in memory of Nigerian war heroes of the two world wars, and the Nigerian civil war. It is located along Calabar road, near the Central Bank of Nigeria, figure 19 (b).

3.3.6.8 The Finger Statues and the Two Feet Statues

They are monumental edifices that adorn the landscape of the city within, and around the millennium park the notable old and famous Calabar building with underground tunnel and spaces, figures 19 (c & d).

Due to the city's early role in international trade and colonial administration, the first Presbyterian Church (Church of Scotland Mission) was built in 1846; the first Monorail and the first modern road network in Nigeria were constructed in Calabar. The city hosts the first military barracks and the first General Hospital in Nigeria, St. Margaret Hospital, as well as the first post office in Nigeria. Hope Waddell Training Institute was established in 1895 which later produced the first President of Nigeria, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe.

3.3.6.9 Cercopan

It is known as the Centre for Education, Research and Conservation of Primates and Nature, located at Calabar. A visit in 2011 with a team of research students reveals its character as an institute dealing on ecotourism and nature reserves; with emphasis on conservation, preservation; and restoration of primates; and returning them to their natural habitats, figure 20 (a).

3.3.6.10 Tinapa Resort

a Free Trade Zone and ‘White Elephant Project’ in Calabar, is the first integrated business and leisure resort in Africa. It was conceived to be a global trading hub, but lacks patronages and human traffic due to lack of complementary local activities and interest which barely attracts businesses and tourists. It was a forced concept on the environment that is devoid of complimentary cultural setting or concept, figure 20 (b).
3.3.7 Obudu Mountain Resort
Cross River State is the most developed Tourism State in Nigeria with splendid nature reserves and man-made tourist attraction. It harbours the famous nature reserve, the Obudu Mountain Resort which has a nicknamed ‘The Jewell of Africa’, with first Cable Car in Africa figure 20 (c).

Figure 20: (a) Team at Cecorpan (2011). (b) Team at Tinapa, (2011) (c) Team at Obudu (2010)
Source: Author’s tours with respective teams.

3.3.8 Enugu
The city derived its name from its hilly landscape “the top of the hill”. Enugu morphed from a mining town following the discovery of coal in that area around 1909. It was established in 1912 as a small coal-mining town that led to the rail road being drawn there 90 years ago, from Port Harcourt in 1916. It grew to become the administrative and political capital of the former Eastern Region of Nigeria. The area has the largest coal deposits in Nigeria; hence the state’s nickname “Coal City State.” It is the “political sanctuary and save haven” for the Igbos both at home and in diasporas. Enugu might not easily cross the mind as one of Nigeria’s major tourist destinations but the city boasts more allurements than many other parts of the country. Caves, hills, waterfalls, lakes, sand beaches as well as numerous hotels and resorts, especially Nike Lake Resort Hotel, are among Enugu’s countless attractions waiting to be savoured.

3.3.8.1 Massacre of Coal Miners’ Statue
Events and persons are remarkable city monuments and urban furniture in discourse. At the city entrance of Enugu, travelers and visitors are welcomed by a statue in commemoration of the massacre of 21 Coal Miners and 19 wounded in 1949 by the white colonial Police Superintendent Major Felix who was assigned to remove explosives from the mines because of workers demonstration in line with the Trade Union Act, figure 21(a & b). The coal miners stage a peaceful demonstration for better wages and conditions of service. The police man misconstrued the peaceful demonstration as political, sporadically and indiscriminately shot at them causing a mare hem. He was indicted for lack of “control and temper.

Figure 21: (a) Massacre of Coal Miners’ Statue (b) Statue mounted at Enugu City Gate
Source: Author’s tours 2014

3.3.8.2 Okpara Square
The square, a monument built to the glory and honour in commemoration of Dr. Michael I. Okpara, a selfless, inspirational and visionary leader, and a statesman of former Eastern Region of Nigeria. He was the Premier of the region from 1960-1966. He was seen as an epitome of humanity and a symbol of power, hence his nickname “M. I. Opara Power”. The square was built by the then military Governor, Group Captain Sampson, E. Omeruah, and commissioned on 17th December 1986. It depicts greatness with monumental statue of Dr. M.I.Opara, tower of light about 20-25m high and also overlapping two elephant tusk indicating power in Igbo philosophy and cosmology. The square covers between 8 - 10 hectares of land, accommodating a large expanse of open spaces and a capacity of about 10,000 - 15000 raked covered seats, figure 22 (a & b).

Dr. Okpara turned the economic fortune of the region from poverty to reaches through agricultural revolution of Palm Oil and Palm Produce, making the region the highest producer of the product in the world then. His programme was
interrupted by the Nigerian civil war from 1967-1970, and to date the region lost the rating. He also empowered other sectors of the economy, and instilled confidence and self-reliance in his people.

The square holds regional, states, local and private activities from socio-economic, political, cultural, religious and others on regular basis. The square in addition, attracts the cream of the society engaging in informal physical exercises and sporting activities, and with supporting brisk businesses in and around it on daily basis stating from 6 am - 10am. It has the aura of tranquil atmosphere and romance, peaceful, inviting and welcoming.

3.3.9 Benue State

Benue State lies in the middle of the country and shares boundaries with five states namely: Nassarawa to the north, Taraba to the east, Cross-River to the South, Enugu, and Ebonyi to the South-West, and Kogi to the West. The state also shares a common boundary with Cameroon on the South-East. The state derives its name from the River Benue, the second largest river in the country and the most prominent geographical feature in the state. It goes with the nickname "The Food Basket".

3.3.9.1 The Food Basket

The symbol located strategically at Wurukum Roundabout in Makurdi, the capital of the state. It shows a big basket stocked fully with agricultural produce, which depicts the rich agricultural status of the state as an agrarian society, figure 23.

3.3.9.2 Makurdi Bridge

River Benue is the second largest river in Nigeria, is serviced by double bridges at Makurdi. The bridge was constructed in 1932 and has the national railway line passing through it, linking South-East to the North. The second bridge was built in 1978 and is the major vehicular bridge linking South-East to the North. Benue bridge is a strategically located, and a commercial gateway within Nigeria figure 24.

3.3.9.3 J.S. Tarka Foundation

It is a tourist edifice named after Late Senator J.S. Tarka, a great politician, famous for the struggle for the liberation of minorities. It is located in the heart of Makurdi town (High-level). The edifice is a home for conferences, seminars and workshops in addition to providing decent accommodation and catering services. The foundation has a beautiful architectural landscape.
3.3.9.4 J.S. Tarka Tomb

The late Senator J.S. Tarka's Tomb is a unique centre of attraction located in the heart of Gboko Town. The tomb is richly decorated with pretty wreaths, which shows great indication of the high esteem in which the late Senator was held. Until his death on 30th March, 1980, Senator Tarka was the political leader of Tiv people, and a co-founder of United Middle Belt Congress (UMBC). He was also the first Vice Chairman and the co-founder of National Party of Nigeria (NPN) that ruled the country during the second republic from 1st October, 1979 to 1983. He was a senator during the administration, figures 25 & 26.

4. OVERVIEW OF TOURISM ON NIGERIAN ECONOMY

World Tourism Organization database on tourism is an effective index for measuring economic input of tourism products of a national economy as illustrated in table 1 below.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>International arrivals (thousands)</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>1,753</td>
<td>2,253</td>
<td>3,056</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic tourism visits (thousands)</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>n.a</td>
<td>n.a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International receipts (Millions of U.S. dollars)</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP-PPP (billions of U.S. dollars)</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>105.2</td>
<td>134.0</td>
<td>148.4</td>
<td>206.2</td>
<td>268.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>International receipts (Percent of GDP)</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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GDP = gross domestic product. PPP = purchasing power parity. n.a. = not available.


4.1 Analysis of Impact of Tourism on Nigerian Economy

From the statistics shown above, Nigeria barely has a tourist industry at all, reflected by tourism’s paltry contribution to national wealth, just 0.02 percent of GDP in 2006. “Nigeria earned N50bn from tourism in 2009”. [23] The Director-General, Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation, Mr. Olusegun Runsewe contradicted the statement, and noted, “however that a broad range of businesses and services earned the N50bn from engaging in activities that promoted tourism, and not necessarily what accrued to the Federal Government; there is no reason why the Nigerian tourism industry cannot give the federal government alone the said amount if harnessed properly”.

4.1.1 Nigeria International Tourism - Number of Arrivals

The value for International tourism, number of arrivals in Nigeria was 715,000 as of 2011. As the graph below shows, over the past 16 years this indicator reached a maximum value of 1,555,000 in 2010 and a minimum value of 611,000 in 1997. Data on inbound tourists are not readily available because of inefficient data collection and porosity of Nigeria’s land and sea boarders. [24]

The data on inbound tourists refer to the number of arrivals, not to the number of people traveling. Thus a person who makes several trips to a country during a given period is counted each time as a new arrival (WTO Year Book 2013)
5. OBSERVATIONS

In spite of the growing trend and awareness of tourism globally - merging businesses, cultures and the global economy, Nigeria is experiencing tremendous decline in the sector notwithstanding abundant tourism potentials in the country. A lot of inhibitions are militating against its growth as follows: Firstly, the docility of marketing organizations to lay emphasis on efficient marketing strategies in order to gain competitive advantage in the industry. Secondly, security - increased wave of Islamist Insurgency (Boko Haram) in northern parts of Nigeria which started in 2001, and now at its peak; arm robbery and kidnapping in the southern parts of Nigeria, and thirdly, the recent deadly endemic plague of Ebola Virus Disease ravaging West African countries; with Nigeria recording her first victim (index case who imported Ebola Virus Disease) in the person of Mr. Patrick Sawyer, Liberian - American who died on July 25, 2014 on his trip from Liberia to Nigeria. By September 6, 2014, Nigeria has recorded 7 deaths. The situation is worrisome to the affected countries and the world at large; affecting all businesses; and tourism is worst affected – patronages of air travels and hospitality have dropped to 50% in Nigeria.

Corruption is another serious deterrent, as it undermines government efficiency, deters potential investors in the tourism industry, and scares off visitors.\(^{[25]}\)
Poor infrastructure and dysfunctional transportation system, badly maintained road network and with a high rate of accidents and road carnage, are barriers for tourism development.

With the increasing trend in tourism development and promotion in several countries, it is imperative for destinations’ marketing organizations to lay emphasis on efficient marketing strategies in order to gain competitive advantage in the industry. Tourism seems relevant for most countries in recent times for several reasons. There is a growing awareness of the use of tourism as a tool for eliminating poverty and promoting economic development in developing countries. However, it is not practical for developing countries only; developed countries are also involved in tourism for other reasons besides being a tool to increase the GDP of the country of which image and identity are involved.

Nigeria did not establish an official tourist board until 1976 and only in the 1990s did it formulate a national tourism policy. Theoretically, the country is tailor-made for tourism. An important barrier to tourism is the absence of organization and institutional capacity at a national level. For most of its history, Nigeria has not had a national tourism strategy, and government departments overlap at the national and regional levels as regards responsibility for the sector; making it difficult to devise a coordinated plan.

For most of its post-independence history, Nigeria has been a byword for political instability, violence, ethnic rivalry, and crime. Tourism, if fully established, could help promote peace.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Nigeria’s tourism is one of unfulfilled potentials. Poverty hinders domestic tourism, but even those who have the means have not developed the culture of travelling. Most foreign visitors come to Nigeria for businesses or family visits. The government does not even possess reliable figures on the numbers of international arrivals to and departures from the country. Public awareness and education is of paramount importance in enlightening the populace on the benefits of tourism and sustainability.

All historic sites and nature reserves- monuments and tourism activities should be managed effectively so as to enhance the development of the city’s image and environs. Important aspects of tourism system and management should include product presentation, tourist information bulletin, financial management, and strategies of improving the tourism potentials. Updates of cultural heritage and tourism product should be provided effectively via internet websites, mass media and advertisement.

The task in keeping rural, city landscapes and nature reserves alive stands out as the secret of communication link from the past to present and the future; which tourism developed nations reap as benefits for tourist attraction. Conservation of the sites should be a continuous and dynamic process involving comprehensive planning and development of the rural and cityscape, architecture, historic sites, local cultures and the community livelihood. Conservation should also consider building preservation and renovation including façade treatments, building materials, height, functions, maintenance and interior renovation. City beautification strategies for urban and rural preservation of built environments and monuments of historic importance should be made available as guide lines to enhance the promotion of cultural tourism.

Tourism, however, cannot gain a foothold in a society that is prone to conflict, insecurity and instability. Nigeria should tackle and solve her inherent problems with honesty towards the road to peace. If achieved, it would catalyze the growth of the industry, and redeem the image of the country. Nigeria should borrowing a leaf from Malaysia’s marketing strategy, and institutionalizing the marketing outfit. In addition, it should involve aggressive marketing and romantic branding, and packaging of the industry; and formulation of a publicity/marketing slogan thus: “Nigeria, the Preferred Destination and Promise Land”. A good marketing strategy will go a long way in placing the country as one of the preferred tourism destinations of the world in the near future.

With those forms of knowledge, distinctions are created and maintained, so that, one culture is marked off as different from another. The differences create attractions to one another which should be made sustainable by procedural conservation and preservation for enhancement of cultural tourism.

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* Architects Registration Council of Nigeria- (F-2755) 2010